



ROS MEEKER

TERBIUM

Element Symbol: **Tb**

Atomic Number: **65**

An initiative of IYC 2011 brought to you by the RACI



www.raci.org.au

TERBIUM

Element symbol: Tb

Atomic number: 65

Terbium was discovered in 1843 by the Swedish chemist Carl Gustaf Mosander, who named it after the village of Ytterby in Sweden, where the terbium-containing mineral “yttria” was first found.

Terbium is not found in nature as a free element, but many minerals contain terbium, such as monazite, cerite, gadolinite, xenotime, and euxenite.

Probably the most common use of terbium and its compounds is in phosphors. A phosphor is a material that gives off light when struck by electrons. The back of a television screen is coated with different kinds of phosphors. When those phosphors are struck by electrons inside the television tube, they give off different colours of light. Phosphors that contain terbium give off a green light when struck by electrons.

Terbium is also used in green lasers and fluorescent lamps.

Due to its brilliant green fluorescence, terbium is commonly used as a probe in biochemistry.

Australian chemists researching terbium compounds and their applications include Glen Deacon, Evan Moore and Bim Graham.

Provided by the element sponsor sponsor Bim Graham

ARTISTS DESCRIPTION

This work was constructed from collaged elements, the resultant image etched onto a polymer plate, with overlaid information from open bite steel etching.

ROS MEEKER